

Miss Shelton State pageant renewed with a smooth-running

By Keith Huffman

Appearing teary-eyed, flattered and overall proud of her victory amid an applauding audience inside the Bean-Brown Theatre, Miss Shelton State contestant Nikki Miller was crowned winner of the 2008 pageant on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The first pageant Shelton State had held since 2000, the tournament was also a preliminary for both the Miss Alabama and Miss America pageants.

Other contestants who competed in the event were first runner-up Candace Hamner and Shelton State softball player Lesley Terry, both of whom vied against Miller for the MSS title through four competitive categories -- lifestyle, fitness in swimsuit, talent and evening wear.

A fourth contestant, Jessica Garcia, was not present.

Despite Shelton State's not having hosted a pageant in eight consecutive years, the 2008 competition seemed well-produced and organized by the college's Miss Shelton State Pageant Planning Committee, which consisted of 17 members,

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New Prez helps crown new Queen



Nikki Miller is crowned Miss Shelton State 2008 by Janelle Arthur with the assistance of the college's new president, Dr. Mark Heinrich.

Cheerleaders gambol into national championship



The Shelton State Cheerleading squad celebrates their victory at the UCA National Cheerleading Championships. Not only did they display the best gamboling—tumbling and spinning—but they were voted "most collegiate."

By Meredith Sayers

On Saturday, Jan. 19 the Shelton State cheerleaders won the Universal Cheerleaders Association National College Cheerleading Championships in the junior college division.

This is a considerable feat when you realize that it's only the cheerleaders' second year as a competition squad.

Tryouts for the cheer-

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Mark Heinrich takes Shelton reins

"We're all here for the students. Period. End of story," he said.

You might not have seen him around much, yet. But he's been here...there and in



Dr. Mark Heinrich addresses the faculty and staff in the Bean-Brown Theater after being named president.

many places, trying to become a part of student life at Shelton State while trying at the same time to learn the ropes of the whole

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including Pageant Director / Coordinator Beth Patrick and Assistant Dean of Students Susan Mohun.

Pageant judges were Ben M. Russell (head judge), Libby Austin, Terry Goaman, Jaime Robbins and Carol Wright. Also in attendance were Shelton State's newly appointed president, Dr. Mark Heinrich, his wife Elaine, and 2008 Miss Tuscaloosa winner Stephanie Shelton, who will also compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant this June.

During the tournament, former Miss Shelton State of 1996, Jill Linn Smith, served as emcee, and guest performer Lisa Waldrop sang "I Get a Kick Out of You" for the event's opening. Dollywood entertainer and current International Cinderella Teen Janelle Arthur also performed, singing "Your Cheating Heart," and "In the Garden," while sporting different outfits during each intermission.

Arthur and emcee Smith also sang another song in a duet towards the pageant's end before the final crowning, in which Heinrich also stepped on stage and assisted Arthur with the honor.

All three pageant contestants appeared to excel in showing ambition as well as elegance while competing

throughout each of the tournament's phases, all of which accounted for different percentage points awarded by the judges. The contestants also represented specific platforms: Miller supported "Lung Cancer Awareness"; Hamner toted "The Forgotten Society"; and Terry, "Childhood Obesity."

First being formally



Miss Shelton State contestants Lesley Terry, Nikki Miller and Candace Hamner greet the audience after Miller's win was announced.

introduced before again taking the stage clad in swimsuits, when they next returned, the contestants revealed their talents. This competition consisted of Hamner's piano performance of famous composer Cyril Scott's "Lotus Land"; Miller's jazz routine to "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the Broadway musical, "Hairspray"; and Terry's guitar solo while singing "Bubbly" by Colbi Calliat.

The tournament concluded after the three contestants presented what emcee Smith called their "individual style and personality" during the

evening-wear category. Each drawing a question from a bowl at Smith's podium, the contestants answered promptly before returning backstage for a full 10-minute intermission as the judges chose the winner.

Speaking with the *Courier* during a Jan. 23 interview, Miller recalled how it felt to compete in the tournament. "You just had to forget about everybody watching you and focus on being yourself," she said. "Overall, I had a wonderful time, it was fun, and I met many new friends. Plus it also opened up many opportunities in my life."

Regarding her reaction upon receiving the crown, Miller added, "I was really excited. I felt honored to be able to represent a school like Shelton State when I compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant. I was also thrilled to be able to have more opportunities to promote my platform (Lung Cancer Awareness) and hopefully save lives."

As Miss Shelton State, Miller was awarded a full-tuition scholarship for one year at Shelton State among other prizes. Both an honor student and nursing major, she plans to transfer to Samford University or UAB. She will next compete in the upcoming Miss Alabama Pageant in June at Samford University in Birmingham.

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Shelton enterprise.

Dr. Mark Heinrich, formerly of Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, was named the new president of Shelton in December and

that role."

Heinrich says he also relishes the job of head booster for the campus, especially student groups and activities. With his wife, Elaine, he says he plans to be as ubiquitous a campus fixture as possible. Elaine Heinrich taught elementary education for 14



Dr. Heinrich chats with Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and UA President Dr. Robert Witt at a reception sponsored by the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

took hold of the reins on Jan. 2. When he was asked what his philosophy was concerning the Shelton State clientele, he said, "We're here for the students. Period. End of story."

One of the ways Heinrich has proven his dedication to students is through his classroom time. "This semester is the first time I have not taught a class in 28 years," he said. "Even as an administrator I wanted to teach at least one class; I just think it's important. I first got into higher education because I liked

years and has run her own real estate and property management business. She sold her properties and plans to work full time, now, supporting her husband, the college and her church.

"One of the things Elaine and I enjoy doing is getting out to as many functions we're available to. Those relationships are so very important. I see myself as someone who

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Among its functions, it is
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participate.

Brother Dee's stellar scientific career culminates with Nobel Prize

By Keith Huffman

(Editor's Note: When we last left off in issue 156, Shelton chemistry and astronomy instructor Dr. Lee Albritton had attended a nearly three-hour interview in which he reflected upon fond memories about his eight-years-older sibling, Dr. Daniel "Dee" Albritton, who was among the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scientists who shared last October's Nobel Peace Prize with former vice-president Al Gore. The *Courier* now presents the continuation of that interview.)

Can you tell how Dee began working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)?

Lee Albritton: "Well, Dee went to Georgia Tech, got a degree in electrical engineering, married his hometown high school sweetheart, then went to work at Alabama Power. So, due to his astronomy background, he noticed there was a job, a summer job, and I guess it was associated with NASA -- tracking rockets that were sent up. And by this time... It was the late fifties... And he sees this summer job at the Air Force facility near Fort Walton Beach along the Florida panhandle where they'd shoot rockets. And what they wanted was somebody who could identify the stars behind the rocket, and it was Dee's background in astronomy from the hobby in the observatory that he applied and got the job. So he said, 'This is my calling.' So I really admire him because he went back and took more physics classes at Georgia Tech. And he gets his masters and his Ph.D. in physics from Georgia Tech. And the person that he got his Ph.D. from was into gas reactions, and in particular the atmosphere. So that's how Dee got his start in figuring out the atmosphere. And I think probably his research advisor knew of the lab in Boulder. So Dee goes out as a post-doc to the atmospheric lab there run by NOAA -- National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA puts out all the hurricane warnings, tornado warnings, and all that. So he does his post-doc there for a year and let's say the rest is history. And eventually he is the head of the whole atmospheric lab there—they call it the Agronomy lab."

Does Dee have any personal philosophies?

"Dee's philosophy—and he's such a people-person—is 'why not always do the right thing in life because it is the right thing to do.' Don't just do it because of

stratosphere, which is twenty miles up. It turns out one chlorine up there destroys thousands of ozone molecules. So we said, 'Hey, we gotta stop something.' And Dee represented the U.S. government at the international meeting on the atmosphere. And in '94 countries all over the world agreed -- period -- we won't make anymore freon... Dee said it would take about two hundred years for the atmosphere to replenish the ozone. And then their group totally turned its focus on global warming."

water power, we had wind power -- you know there were wind mills that did about anything. You name it. But with the Industrial Revolution, we started burning wood, and we started burning coal, and petroleum, and all those, of course, are carbon-based and release CO₂ when burned. And just by tracking CO₂ levels in the atmosphere -- temperature levels as well -- we know that Earth has a problem."

And the biggest CO₂ producer is...

"The United States. In fact, Dee says if we went cold turkey tomorrow on fossil fuels, which would be impossible since we make electricity with coal primarily. But Dee says if we did -- no more fossil fuel, no more petroleum -- we have already committed the planet to a several-degree warming, which would have many adverse effects. We can't totally stop global warming, but we can certainly slow it down by less CO₂ emissions, and switching to cleaner fuels."

Now, focusing on your life experiences, can you recall any specific childhood memories that you'd consider cherished?

"I was in fifth grade when we built the observatory. I was so proud, we had a little eight-inch reflector in there, and we put a big concrete pillow so that it wouldn't shake around. And I was so proud in junior high school -- seventh and eighth grade -- just so proud to take my classmates back there. 'Course it was a big thing to take your date back there, to the observatory. And the roof rolled off, and I was so proud when I could find Saturn, y'know, able to find my way around. And my first paragraph in English -- what do you do it around

seventh grade or eighth grade? -- was the first time I saw a satellite. I think I had to write it about ten times to finally get it correct. Plus math. I just loved math. Absolutely. But I thought, what can you do with math? 'Cause we didn't have computers back then."

And you received your Ph.D. at Rice University

"Correct. I also went to Alabama, majored in chemistry."

Why chemistry?

"Well, chemistry is an application of math. But from there I went to Rice Graduate School."

Why Rice University?

"Well, I went to visit Virginia, and that was a beautiful campus. But they had a really young faculty there. But the history of Rice, I mean it was totally technical.... But anyway, I just fell in love with Rice. It was '68. Rice has just 2,000 undergraduates -- a thousand graduates. Just a little, small thing."

What was life like at Rice? Any fond memories?

"There were like 25 in my graduate class at Rice, and you just really get close. We still keep up with a lot of friends that we had in graduate school. It was just a fun, fun time. At lunch we'd all get together and eat sandwiches and take a picnic out and we'd play croquet. And later we got a foos-ball table. And this was a time when students would take over administration buildings -- y'know, Vietnam and all -- so anything we wanted, they'd let us have. So this is what we did, under the chemistry lecture hall -- you can imagine -- they kinda made some rooms down there, it was kind of like some rathskeller... The architecture at Rice has got all those gargoyles around, and red-tiled roofs -- you go around at Rice and find all these weird-lookin' creatures looking down at you around... Kind of castle-like, Gothic-type. And we



Astronomy and chemistry instructor Dr. Lee Albritton shared this photo of his brother Dee holding his 2007 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. Lee's enthusiasm for science was bestowed upon him by his older brother during their childhood.

some religious duty -- it's simply just the right thing to do."

What were Dee's initial duties at NOAA?

"What they had to do in that first ten years dealt with ozone and ozone depletion. You know we realized we had a problem -- Ozone is the second layer of our atmosphere (the stratosphere), and it absorbs harmful ultraviolet protons from the Sun. Freon was used in spray cans during the 1960's and '70s, and one of the atoms in a molecule of Freon is chlorine. Freon is a rather inert molecule, and the fact that it is very inert means it doesn't react, and it was finding its way up to the stratosphere. We were releasing so much in air conditioning systems and aerosol cans that freon was effecting the ozone in the

What is your view on global warming?

"I think the big thing is, you just measure the CO₂, or carbon dioxide, levels in the atmosphere. We know that CO₂ traps heat. And you just measure the amount of CO₂ -- Our atmosphere has just this little small fraction of 1 % CO₂, which is kind of just right. If you didn't have CO₂, then the planet never would have warmed up. So life never could have evolved on the planet. Now Venus, our sister planet, has like 96% carbon dioxide as well as an off-scale global warming problem -- the element lead would melt on the surface of Venus. So I think one of the key things to say, 'Hey we have a problem' -- since the Industrial Revolution, 1830s and 1840s -- up to that point we had grass mills, we had

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leading squad were held in April and the new squad began practicing in June, said Susan Mohun, the cheerleading sponsor.

The squad started their winning-spree in July when they went to UCA college camp, winning top awards in cheer, sideline, and fight song, as well as being voted most collegiate.

During October, they sent a video of the squad practicing partner stunts, pyramids, and tumbling which UCA voted number one out of all junior college entries, thus providing the squad with a paid trip to Disney World for the national competition and a straight shot to the finals. Other squads had to compete in preliminary competitions before moving to the final round.

Coach Christa Grizzle is no stranger to winning national championships, said Mohun. Shelton's is her sixth. She won five at Moorhead University—three as a cheerleader and later two more as a coach.

Before competing at nationals, the cheerleading squad practiced four days a week -- usually Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday afternoons -- for about three hours each day.

A panel of judges critiqued the squad on its crowd appeal, tumbling, partner stunts, and pyramids.

Sarah Beth Dean, a freshman cheerleader, said, "The hardest part of the routine for me was the rewind pyramid."

In that stunt, Dean said she was tossed from a back handspring onto the legs of girls who were already standing on guys' shoulders.

If you think it's scary to look at, just think what it must be like to perform these winning stunts at the cheerleading national championships.

"We learned it at camp, and it was scary at first, but I got used to it."

Another freshman cheerleader, Chris Murray, said the toughest part of the routine was the one-on-one stunt with his flyer. He had to make sure it hit perfectly in order for the squad to win.

Both Dean and Murray



agreed the other teams were tough competition. "They were all very good," said Murray. "There was a lot of talent." It all came down to who had the best routine and who the judges liked best. "It was a good match-up," said Dean.

The Shelton State cheerleading squad has ten males and ten females. "Even at the community college level it's unusual to have so many guys. They add a lot of strength," said Mohun. She added that the entire squad is able to tumble, adding to its value while competing.

The squad knew what to expect when they arrived at Disney World's Wide World of Sports. Many of them had competed at nationals while cheering in high school, and they were all well aware of what it would take to win.

"When we found out we won we were shocked and excited at the same time," said Dean and Murray.

"We knew we could do it, but there's always that thought in the back of your mind," said Dean.

Cheerleading Coach Christa Grizzle as well as sponsor Susan Mohun had high expectations of this year's squad, and their hopes and hard work came to fruition. "You always want to be back-to-back champions," said Mohun. "We plan to keep working hard and win it all again next year."

Lady Bucs continue to dominate

By Matt Celozzi
Courier Editor

Madonna's at it again. Shelton State Women's basketball coach Madonna Thompson once again has the Bucs buying in to her winning system to the tune of a 14-4 overall record.

"We knew it would take a little while for everything to click with 10 new players," said Thompson. "But we're starting to play well."

And it couldn't have

need to keep this up and take pressure off of our defense."

As if the defense has been feeling much pressure. The Bucs are holding opponents to just under 59 points per game.

Coach Thompson's squad is coming off of a successful 31-win season that culminated in a state championship and a trip to the national tournament. If the team is to better that outing and matriculate further into the tournament this time



The Lady Bucs continue to do what it takes to win games and get back to the national tournament.

come at a better time. The Bucs are 4-0 in conference play, once again asserting their dominance against the group of teams they know so well.

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, Shelton hosted conference rival Snead State at the Umphrey Center in front of a small but enthusiastic crowd. The result was a familiar one: The Bucs handed their opponents from Boaz a resounding 94-55 defeat.

Sophomore Lauren Tucker and freshman Marquisha Loper led all scorers with 17 points while sophomore Margaret Bell chipped in with 14. Freshman center Darnisha Lyles pulled down 17 rebounds.

The Bucs' 94-point output was typical of a season in which Shelton is leading the conference in scoring offense (76 ppg.)

"We've been shooting the ball well," said Tucker, whose 38% from behind the 3-point line is among the best in the conference. "We

around, they'll certainly be carried by their trio of talented sophomores: Tucker, Ayla Guzzardo and Caroline Powell.

Guzzardo finds herself ranked first in the conference in assists per game (6.1), second in 3-point FG percentage (48%) and assist-to-turnover ratio (2.2) and third in steals per game (2.9).

Stats like these tend to breed confidence in players, and Guzzardo is no different. "We will win state," said the sophomore matter-of-factly. "But that doesn't mean we're looking ahead."

Powell spoke on the notion of besting their second-round exit in the national tournament last season. "For now, all we're worried about is winning state."

Leave it to Madonna to have a well-adjusted team.

The Shelton State women continue their march to the postseason at the Umphrey Center on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 5:30 p.m. when they host Gadsden State.

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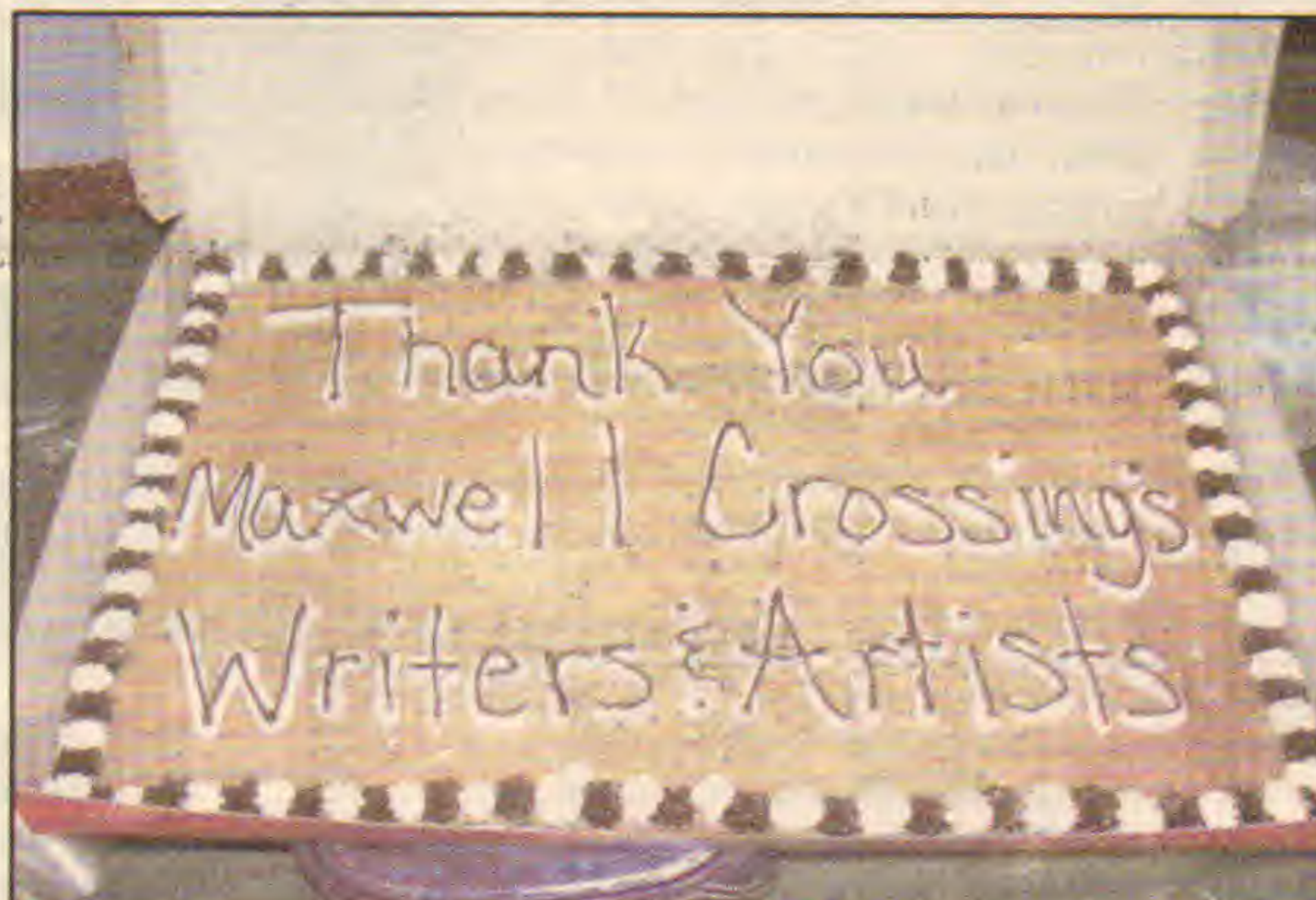
Lee Johnson, a member of the Shelton Singers, has sung the National Anthem at most of the Buc home games this season. His gentle a capella rendition has been well received.



Shelton grads lined up just outside the atrium before marching in for the December graduation ceremonies.



During the search process for the new Shelton State president, Chancellor Bradley Byrne spoke in the atrium on campus. He stressed the transparent nature by which the new person would be hired.



The participants in the Courier's Maxwell's Crossing publication were treated to a reception and a big slab of cookie in December after the fine arts issue came out.



Allison Bagwell and Reneshia Steele got their cosmetology careers off to a great start by winning the best hair design contest in Ruth Watts's first-semester class.



Shelton sent a team to the University Mall for the recent Health Fair. Participants were (L-R) Instructor Jackie Williams with Olivia Wright, Anita Smith, Wendi Jones, Chelsea Collins, John Sunderman and Brittany Scott.

News From Phi Theta Kappa



Phi Theta Kappa Spring Recruiting

Phi Theta Kappa meetings for Spring Semester will be held in the D Rooms on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, April 16, 11 a.m.
May TBA

Lunch provided, or bring your own.

Spring membership recruitment...

The Alpha Epsilon Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society will soon be submitting the names of those eligible to become members for the 2008 Spring Semester. If you feel you are eligible and have not received a letter by February 11, 2008, please contact Claire Brock at 391-3918 or Julia Speights at 391-2948.

To be eligible, students must meet the following criteria:

you must be enrolled in a regionally accredited institution offering an associate degree program;

you must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework leading to an associate degree program (part-time students may be eligible);

you must generally have a grade point average of 3.5;

you must receive an invitation to membership from the chapter at the college where presently enrolled;

you must adhere to the moral standards of the society.

NOTE: Members or prospective members wishing to be officers for 2008/2009 can pick up an application Feb. 1, 2008 outside the PTK office.

Terrific Tuesdays Spring 2008

February 5	Shelton State Jazz Ensemble Dr. Alan Blackshear, director Bean Brown Theatre	April 22	Shelton State Community College Alumnus Honors Recital Outstanding music students Shelton State Community College
February 12	Vocal Program Dr. Rosephanie Powell, soprano Dr. William Powell, piano Auburn University music faculty	February 29, March 1	Additional Concerts Broadway Melodies and Memories SSCC Music and Theatre Department Glinda Blackshear, musical director Michael Carr, theatre director Bean Brown Theatre February 29-March 1 @ 7:30 p.m.
February 19	NATS Preview Voice students of Glinda Blackshear and Dr. Mark Brown	March 11	Shelton State Jazz Ensemble Dr. Alan Blackshear, director Bean Brown Theatre 7:30 p.m.
February 26	Piano students of Amanda Penick	April 29	American Music Concert Shelton Singers Glinda Blackshear, director Alabama Power Recital Hall Martin Campus, Shelton State Community College 7:30 p.m.
March 4	Chamber Music with Gary Smoke		
March 11	TBA		
March 18	Spring Break		
March 25	Piano Students of Amanda Penick		
April 1	No Fooling: Musical Theatre with Joey Lay		
April 8	MUSICALE Shelton State Community College Voice, piano and percussion students		
April 15	Keith Williams, guitar		

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needs to be involved with the entire campus community," President Heinrich said.

The new Shelton boss stresses the need for a sense of togetherness of everyone at the college. "I feel we're in a kind of system here," he said in his precise, earnest and soft-spoken way. "We're all interconnected with each other. I think it's so important to remember that what one does impacts everyone else."

Of course, it's not unusual for a college president to say students must be the focus of any higher education institution. However, Heinrich seems passionate about the details of what Shelton State can and must accomplish as a center for not only transfer programs but for technical education and work force development. To him all three of those aspects of the college are equally important and actually feed off each other. For instance, he said, Shelton clients in workforce development should take some academic courses, too. "Workforce development involves English," he points out. "As a worker you have to be able to communicate well. So those three areas—technical, workforce development and two-year transfer are so interrelated. That's a real important message to convey."

The Wisconsin native has said on several occasions that he plans to take about three months to get to know the college and the community before deciding on any new directions or initiatives for Shelton State. That learning period might have been longer had Mark and Elaine Heinrich not been thoroughly introduced to West Alabama in the late '70s while he was earning a doctorate in counseling from the University of Alabama. He first came to the South as a collegiate tennis player at Tennessee Tech, majoring in psychology. He earned a master's in educational psychology and guidance there in '76.

While at UA getting his doctorate in just two years, he also coached the women's tennis team and had another academic duty which stood him in good stead applying for a position in the state of Alabama 25

years later: he worked as an athletic academic counselor reporting to Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant. If that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he also served as resident manager at the Baptist Student Center on the UA campus.

Although he plans to take his time talking to people, observing and withholding conclusions, the new president was willing to share his point-of-view in some important areas:

Shelton's Technical Education Program

"Some people who are pushing their kids into the traditional program, I think their agenda is 'I want them to have a better life than I had.' They don't realize the opportunities there are in technical areas. The old-fashioned idea of what's involved in technical areas just doesn't hold up any more. Just go to Mercedes, walk through the plant and see the kind of environment they're working in."

Some attractive areas for careers

"Three areas are industrial maintenance, nursing and welding, for instance. Those are areas that are so hot right now, it's unbelievable. There are industrial maintenance workers starting at \$80,000 a year in this town. And nursing goes without saying. We cannot produce enough welders—those are very, very high-paying jobs. So not only are each of us gifted in different areas, but we have stereotypes in some areas that are just flat wrong."

His and Shelton State's relationship to the other colleges in town

"I have already spent a little time and I will spend more time with both the Stillman and University presidents. I think we've worked well together for years, but I think we're going to have to come up with even more creative ways of furthering that relationship so that we can even better meet the changing student-needs. ... I think there are some very interesting things happening in

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said, "Hey, we'd like to set up an area for graduate students to gather under the chemistry lecture hall—a rathskeller down there"—really it was a bar. You know, just some little place for us to meet. And all us chemistry folks got real involved with that 'cause it was in our building. They had some old chairs from the chancellor's office, you know, these ol' gothic chairs. Sometimes you'd see them in old churches, with a top that came over the chair. They'd stuck them all in storage somewhere... We got those and put them around in our place, and we got a foos-ball table down there, and we literally had beer on tap. We had a Volkswagen van at that time, so I would be the one on Friday at noon... We'd go out every Friday and go to some pizza place for lunch and get a keg of beer to take back to our "rathskeller"—we'd all start drinkin', but you know, enough where we could still drive. So every Friday afternoon was always a TGIF party. Professors from all over would come in, folks with their children would come in. I mean it was really nice.... It was just such a good mingling. And then we got some kind of deal where we could refrigerate the keg—not me, I was involved in getting them in the early days—and you could come in anytime, and you'd have beer on tap."

Did you have anybody you'd consider a mentor at Rice?

"My advisor in graduate school was a great guy—Dr. John Margrave. You know, you write in your research—you write a paper in a journal that you publish. He had four or five hundred papers published, and he was so good to work for because he had maybe ten or twelve post-docs working for him. Great guy, John Margrave. Really, Margrave was so good, what he'd do—he was chairman of the department for a while, and he would go to all kind of meetings—and you would come in to school and there'd be a note on your desk. And he'd say, "Oh, Lee, I was at a conference the other day, and somebody

was talkin' about so and so, you know, that has to do with what you're setting up and doin', why don't you give it a try and let me know how it turns out." And it always reminded me of the Phantom, you know in the comics years ago, the Phantom... there was a safe where the jungle patrol got orders from the Phantom. It has a false bottom. The Phantom would go through a tunnel and put these orders in the safe... But Margrave—you would never see him, but you would find these notes on your desk. But about once a month he'd take us all out to pizza or something like that. We go to the beach, go down to Galveston for an outing. And it was just such a fun, learning... I mean, it was just so much fun, graduate school. And we had at different times as post docs we had Israelis, we had Arabs, we even had a Russian as well as Germans. We'd all get along, talk about politics... That was around the Watergate time.

"When I went to graduate school in '68 to work as a post doc, it was the top year for Ph.D. chemists. Everybody wanted a Ph.D in chemistry. But when I got out in '72, it was the rock-bottom year—people were reading the obituary section in the paper to see if a chemist died... So my advisor said, "Hey, why don't you stay and be a post doc, Lee? Why don't you just stay around, it'll be great, you know there's some young people working in your area, and we want you to just stay around."

Regarding chemistry in general, what specific area were you studying?

"My area was chemistry of the extremes—high temperature and high pressure."

When and what did you do after your post doc?

"From 1973 to '76, I worked in chemical industry at DuPont in North Carolina. And the one of the projects I worked on was with the anti-static program. You see, a problem with some polyester material, like the clothes you wear, was it would cling, or stick to you. So we tried to make polyester conduct an electrical charge."

What led you to Shelton State?

"I knew that I wanted to

teach... So I started applying around, went up to an interview at a college out in Erie, Pennsylvania. A small, Polish college. They had a great planetarium, I remember that about them. And at the same time I got a postcard from a former roommate from college. And he taught at Brewer State in Fayette. And on the card he wrote, "Oh, by the way, we have a chemistry opening." And that's why I'm here at Shelton now, because of that post card. At that time it was called Brewer State, and the Tuscaloosa campus later merged with both the technical college and Fredd to become what is now Shelton State Community College. And I began teaching in Tuscaloosa on the Skyland campus in 1977."

The following is the closing of a Jan. 12, 2008, letter addressed to Shelton State chemistry and astronomy instructor Dr. Lee Albritton from his brother, Dr. Daniel "Dee" Albritton, who was chosen among 2,000 scientists in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations network, to accept last October's Nobel Peace Prize along with former Vice-President Al Gore in Oslo, Norway.

In his letter, Dee Albritton conveyed how it felt to accept such a prestigious award on Oct. 12, 2007.

"The trip and events were clearly one of "Life's Greatest Experiences". I saw old friends and colleagues from around the world. I was so pleased with the recognition of the value of the IPCC. In his introduction, the Head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee explained why they picked the IPCC to share the 2007 prize. They underscored that our Panel is an independent group of scientists, with no policy axe to grind, who assesses what we do know and what we don't know about climate change. The information is provided in user-friendly terms to those (governments, industry, and the public) who must wrestle with tough public well-being issues like climate change. I returned with a renewed and strengthened belief that it was indeed worth a chunk of one's life.

Love,
Dee"

Shelton Singers one of the stars of the annual "Realizing the Dream" concert

By Stephanie James

On Saturday, Jan. 19, the Shelton Singers were visibly nervous as they warmed their voices behind the stage inside the jazz room of the Moody Music

said it was "a wonderful, and thrilling experience." This was his first performance at the Moody Auditorium, said Pruitt, whose father helped organize the show. "It was cold outside but the concert was



Before taking the stage at the moody Concert Hall at UA, the Shelton Singers pose for the Courier camera.

Concert Hall—and they should have been, for they were about to take the same stage once held by the likes of famous performers Ossie Davis, Sidney Poitier, Roberta Flack, and Harry Belafonte.

The 19th annual "Realizing the Dream," concert for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began at 7:30 p.m. on the University of Alabama campus. The Shelton Singers who appeared toward the program's end were directed by Glinda Blackshear and Dr. Mark Brown.

"I think it was more in the spirit of what Dr. King intended because he knew that change would have to come from ordinary people who live in the real world, not from stars and celebrities." He also knew that our future was in our young people," said Blackshear.

"It was an honor and privilege to perform," said Samory Toure Pruitt II. He

all worth it," Pruitt II said.

Both the faculty members and students say it was an honor for the Shelton Singers to perform on the very same stage that once graced some of the legends of show-biz.

This year's concert, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," featured The Alabama Choir School, Shelton Singers, Stillman College Choir, The University Singers, Citywide Middle School Honor Choir, UA Afro-American Gospel Choir and the University Chorus.

Musical performances included "Hold On!" (a spiritual composed by Jester Hairston), "Total Praise" (a gospel song by Richard Smallwood), Jabula Jesu (a Zulu folk song composed by Stephen Hatfield), "I'm Goin' Up A-Yonder" (a gospel song by Walter Hawkins), and "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (arranged by Jack Schrader).

Heinrich from Page 6



Dr. Mark Heinrich and his wife Elaine consider themselves a team playing exclusively for Shelton State.

other parts of the country that we can talk about and incorporate right here in Tuscaloosa."

Another area of educational partnership

"One area people don't often enough talk about is our relationship with K-12. There are changing job mar-

dents

"I have seen information about how well our students do academically, both in the world of work and when they transfer to--those who want--a four-year school. They transfer at a great rate. I'm seeing in six or seven areas how well our students do. I've been overwhelmed by the friendliness of our students, the academic ability of our students, the work ethic of our students."

His reception at the college and in T-town

"From the first day I stepped on campus I have been overwhelmed with the friendliness of, first of all, the students. The Ambassadors were the first group I had contact with, and they were absolutely terrific. Overall, in a broader sense, the manner in which Elaine and I have been welcomed across the board--students, faculty, staff and community--has just been wonderful. We could just not have been treated any better than we have."

The Shelton State stu-

Pay attention to the Moon; it's not just a phase it's going through

By Dr. Lee Albritton

Make plans to attend an upcoming open house at the Shelton State observatory complex on the Fredd Campus to observe February's spectacular total lunar eclipse. The evening will begin at the complex's amphitheater with a brief program on the total lunar eclipse at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night, Feb. 20.

Lunar eclipses occur when the Sun, Earth and Moon exactly line up, and the Moon as it makes its monthly orbit of Earth runs into our shadow.

On the evening of the 20th, the Moon will enter

Earth's shadow at 7:43 p.m. and will be totally in our shadow at 9 p.m. During, the totally eclipsed Moon is still slightly lit by scattered light and can vary in color from shades of red to orange to brown. The Moon will remain in our shadow until 9:52 p.m. and will completely exit our shadow at 11:09 p.m. (Eclipse times are from the February issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine.)

We will follow the eclipse with our large 14 inch computer-driven telescope in the main observatory as well as smaller telescopes set up in the observing areas. The complex has

a metal firepit complete with stars and moons that will be used for marshmallow roasting and the making of S'mores. Hot chocolate and hot apple cider will also be available to warm the stargazers.

If you can't join us, simply note the times and observe this somewhat rare event by simply looking up - a pair of binoculars would greatly increase your enjoyment. But do plan to come by the observatory complex sometime on the evening of Feb. 20 and watch Earth's shadow slowly glide across the Moon's surface with our large telescope. Keep looking up!



A 2003 lunar eclipse courtesy of FloridaStars.org

Despite a few lapses, Bucs still flying up and down the court at 14-5

Buccaneer fans who make it to the Umphrey Center when the men's team is playing are sometimes treated to one of the best and most persistent fast-break teams they have ever seen.

And sometimes not.

"We have to get more consistent. That's the problem," Coach Barry Mohun said the day after his team dropped an improbable and uncharacteristic lose-from-

approach to find their rhythm again. "We lost one player who was probably the fastest guy on the team," Mohun said. "We still like to fastbreak, but we seem to be a step slow from what we were."

One player who has continued to shoulder a load for the Bucs has been Jason "Swamp Dog" Swanson, a 6'6" power forward who seems to enjoy mixing it up



Bucs sophomore Stewart Mashburn at 6'4" lends the backcourt some size coming off the bench.

ahead game at home to Snead State on Jan. 22.

After another loss on Jan. 14 to Bevill, the Bucs are looking for a lineup and an

underneath the basket.

Swanson leads the team in both points scored per game: 15.7 and in rebounds at 11.2.

Join us for our Kickoff! QEP

(Quality Enhancement Program)

**Tuesday, Jan. 29, 3 p.m. at
Fredd Campus or
Thursday, Jan. 31, 3 p.m. at
Martin Campus Atrium
Students are welcome!**